

The Tiger or the Bolshevik? A Skeptic Challenges All Values

Sporting Letters From India and Russian Diary of Distress

An Englishman's Experiences With Tigers and Men, and an Englishwoman's With Bolshevik Savagery

By Willis Fletcher Johnson
LETTERS TO NOBODY: 1903-1913. By Sir Guy Wilson. Illustrated. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. \$5.
FROM A RUSSIAN DIARY: 1917-1920. By an Englishwoman. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. \$5.

THE LADY, OR THE TIGER? was Frank Stockton's immortal problem, which comes grimly to mind to-day in reading these two fascinating volumes. The one is largely—by no means entirely—devoted to accounts of tiger hunting in the Indian jungles—a thrilling, though dangerous sport. The other is an account of years spent among the Bolsheviks amid the ruins of Russia—a depressing and still more dangerous experience. The Bolshevik or the tiger? Which is the preferable antagonist?

Sir Guy Wilson, after a distinguished career in Great Britain, Egypt and South Africa, in both peace and war, went at the age of threescore to be the head of the Indian Council and to direct the finances of that gigantic empire and incidentally to stalk big game. Long an expert sportsman, he was almost unique as a tiger hunter when, on New Year's Day in the Sunderbunds he brought down two fine beasts, right and left, in as many minutes. He had many other adventures with "stripes," with those Indian buffaloes which are scarcely less formidable and with various other foes and also friends of Mowgli's. Hunting stories are innumerable in English literature, but in all the nearly a century since Captain Harris we have known none more spirited, more truly instinctive with the spirit of the chase, and certainly none more touched with irresistible humor, than those in Letters to Nobody. The "letters" are, in fact, more diary than correspondence, and they have all the combined facility and felicity of both. They simply bubble and sparkle with wit and humor.

"Scientists draw an absurd distinction between venomous and harmless snakes. As the American said of Red Indians, there is but one harmless snake and that is a dead one. . . . A bear possesses the combined charms of a sulky porter and a slow railway booking clerk. Had I the option, however, of shooting two of the three I should let off the bear. . . . One takes a steady shot at what ought to be the bear's heart and the bullet just cuts through a mass of long black fur. It is as difficult to locate a bear's heart as it is to locate some human brains. . . . A wild boar is reputed to be the luckiest thing living. Apropos of hours, did you ever hear Lord Bowen's definition of a bore?—a wild pig."

But Sir Guy was there for other work than sporting, and well did he perform it, though in the "Letters" he chronicles it modestly. As senior member of the council he was for a time acting viceroy, and for years his services to the civil government were of the very highest order of importance and efficiency. The same, liberal and statesmanlike views of Indian governmental problems, which he expresses profusely and frankly, are above all praise. The keynote of his service was perfectly sounded in the words which he himself quoted from Gordon of Khartoum:

"To govern men there is but one way, and it is eternal truth. Get into their skins. Try to realize their feelings. That is the true secret of government."

From that incomparable ideal of government, set up by a Briton for British dealings with "subject races," we turn in appalling contrast to that other ideal, set up by renegade Russians for

cooperation of others who fall in line with her plans to improve social conditions. She gets herself elected school teacher in a neglected rural community hitherto bossed by a man named Prothero, who has managed to divert most of the public funds appropriated for local improvements into his own pocket. He has worked affairs so ingeniously that the County Council Farm is under his dominion. He leases the convicts at a profit to himself, and being magistrate for his township, sentences all the husky negroes that his spies catch on some pretext to picking cotton for him. Nancy is clever enough to learn the facts about him and through her efforts the situation is altered.

There are in this book a thrilling fight in the Legislature over her public welfare bill, a love story that ends happily and a pleasing study of psychology.

A Cave-Man Lover

Plenty of Action in Burning Sands

BURNING SANDS. By Arthur Weigall. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

THE reader of Burning Sands, by Arthur Weigall, is going to suspect that Daniel Lane is a cave man lover as soon as Daniel comes in out of the desert and makes a scene at the Cairo social affair, where Lady Muriel Blair is the star of the evening. They have sentries at the gates when social affairs are held in Cairo—none of your unnamed butlers—and Daniel Lane has to toss a brassy Scotch soldier quite roughly before he can get audience with Lord Blair.

Daniel lives out in the desert and he is not fond of the conventions of social life. He says as much, quite frankly, at the dinner party given by Lord Blair later on. "Out there," he declares, "the men that you meet speak the truth openly, and do all they have to do without cunning and without fuss and frills"—sentiments which come in this country from the handsome heroes who wear the four gallon hats in cowboy pictures.

A little later Daniel tells Muriel he was speaking to her when he described all the lures of the desert. It is a certainty then that Muriel is going to the desert to find out for herself about the unconventional life there. But first Daniel, who finds that a society girl has a lure quite as irresistible as his beloved desert, accepts a secretaryship or something of that sort at the hands of Lord Blair, who has some vital problems to solve concerning the natives and needs an expert.

The love affair of Muriel and David does not progress satisfactorily. If it did the book would be over many chapters too soon. They misunderstand each other sadly. Daniel has befriended a Cairo street girl named Lizette and Muriel totally misinterprets his friendliness. Also Daniel doesn't understand what sort of girl Muriel really is, but gets the notion that she doesn't sense anything bigger than the social life she has been leading.

Daniel goes back to the desert and Muriel follows him, quite recklessly. There is a revolt of natives and he has to rescue her—one detail of the rescue involving carrying Muriel miles across the desert sands. It is then that he kisses her roughly and lives up to his cave man promise in the early chapters.

There is not so much desert atmosphere in the book as its title leads one to look for. Also, the villain, Lord Barthampton, Daniel's cousin, is disappointing, as he promises something quite exceptional in villainy and then does not make good. In further criticism it is to be said that Muriel's habit of admiring her beautiful feet every time she wakes up seems like a steal from our own Mary MacLane of Butte.

Caring for Children

THE NURSERY SCHOOL. By Margaret McMillan. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

THIS is an extremely interesting, helpful and practical outline of the best methods to follow caring for young children, based upon the author's experiences in the slums of London. Miss McMillan tells how to feed, teach and amuse children, and describes the training courses which should be taken by the prospective nurse and teacher. The author's extensive experience in social welfare work gives her work a distinct note of authoritativeness.

For the Card Player

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THE needs of the social and the solitary card player alike are satisfied in these two books. Dr. Gillies outlines a system of play which combines vigor in attack with safety in defense. Mr. Bergholt's work is devoted to an exposition of the game of solitaire, as played on the English board of thirty-three holes. It is provided with 176 illustrations.

Words in Usage

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A Mystic Tale

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NORMAN ANGELL, who contends in his new book, *Fruits of Victory* (Century), that the war and the peace settlements have verified the conclusions set forth in his previous work, *The Great Illusion*

Book News and Gossip

Nineteen Years a Best Seller
Wednesday, August 17, was Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter's birthday. She celebrated it in Lumberlost Cabin with her daughter and little granddaughter, Gene Stratton. Her publishers, Doubleday, Page & Co., celebrated it by bringing out on that date her new novel, *Her Father's Daughter*. It is nineteen years since Mrs. Porter wrote *The Song of the Cardinal* and began to introduce to an ever-widening circle of readers the beauty and wholesomeness of the outdoors. How many nature lovers can trace their love of the open to butterfly-catching expeditions inspired by *Frackles* or their interest in birds and flowers to other of her stories? In these nineteen years Mrs. Porter has become an institution. Her books have steadily ranked among the best sellers both at home and in England and have been translated into many languages. They have brought their author rich royalties, but wealth has been to her but a secondary consideration. Every alternating year Mrs. Porter has consistently sacrificed this revenue and devoted her time to writing a purely scientific nature book which could not be counted a money maker. Her *Birds of the Bible*, *Moths of the Lumberlost* and *Feathers* rank high among treatises of bird and insect lore. In *Her Father's Daughter* Mrs. Porter has made the canyons and valleys of California as familiar to her readers as the woods of the Lumberlost.

Information Wanted
O. Henry's publishers have just received from the art department of one of the leading weekly magazines, which stresses in its columns the value of general information, a letter requesting a recent photograph of O. Henry. Can you recommend a reliable spirit photographer?

Quin in Second Printing
A second printing of Quin, Alice Hegan Rice's new novel, has been made necessary by orders received in advance of publication, the Century Company announces.

Italian Color
Rich Hues Tinge Book of Free Verse
THE HUES OF ARCETRI. By Evelyn Louise Everett. The John Lane Company. \$1.50.

THE author of *The Hills of Arcetri* explains the purpose of her little book in her prologue, where she states her wish to chant the beauty of Italy. "You will not learn," she says, "from any song of mine the color of her shining hair or the shape of her exquisite face, but if there floats by you, in a little wandering breath, some faint, veiled hint of that allure of hers, I shall be wholly content." In accord with this

Henry Kitchell WEBSTER'S Joyous Romance REAL LIFE A Lark of a Book
A Chair on the Boulevard
Unique and unapproachable Paris as seen by LEONARD MERRICK
Feel the gaiety of her atmosphere even at home.
\$1.90 at any book store or from E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 5th Av., N. Y.

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Entire Libraries or Single Volumes. Highest prices paid. Representative will call. Cash paid and books removed promptly.
WORMRATH & PECK, INC.
Formerly Henry Mulkens, Inc.
42 Broadway, Phone Broad 3900

motive, she gives the eleven prose-poems of this book titles selected from colors, ranging from Gray and Ochre to Purple and Rose. There's a lot of harmony between word and vision in the pages of this little volume. Too often poetry fails utterly in getting across its picture, because of its omnipresent tendency to lapse into the sheer prosaic. Here are the opening lines of Sappho:

Night settles
In the sweet silence
Of the ancient garden.
The pallor in the sky
Slowly deepens
To sapphire darkness.
The garlanded vines
And the olives
Merge in the shadows
To one soft grayness.

A Star Guide

A Book on the Heavens for Little Folks

THE STAR PEOPLE. By Gaylord Johnson. Published by the Macmillan Company. \$1.50.

THERE have been a thousand and one books on the stars. Their romance in the history of mankind and their positions in the firmament and their movements have called upon the imagination of poet and scientist. Of late there has been a new drift in the general interest in the constellations, that of a desire and a purpose to give children a correct knowledge of the geography of the skies; for an acquaintance with the legends of Perseus, Andromeda, Orion and the other figures that gleam above us, as told in mythology, reinforced by an ability to point out the star-clusters that represent them, has a definite cultural phase in the education of the child.

The author of *The Star People* invents an "Uncle Henry," who, through a series of nights in the open, gives a little group of children object lessons that fix in their memories the sections of the heavens occupied by all the charted constellations. By placing problems on the ground in the order of the stars of the Dipper and other stellar groups, as well as by illustration by lines revealing contours of the heroic figures typified, he opens to his enthusiastic audience and gazers at first gate to the mystery and majesty of the stars.

August is the month of meteors. We recall lying for hours stretched full length on an old sail out in the night, watching an unusual display of these visitors some dozen years ago. It would be wise to put copies of this instructive and entertaining book in the hands of many children, that they may acquire a knowledge that will ever be for them an inspiration and a source of entertainment.

Howard Has Original Recessional
"The original draft of Kipling's Recessional," with the first title, "After," is among the Kipling treasures of the Widener Memorial Library at Cambridge," says The Publishers' Weekly.

It was the gift of Dr. William Norton Bullard, to whom it had been given by Sarah Norton, who was visiting Kipling when he wrote the famous poem of the Jubilee, and who saved the discarded draft."

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Life Placed Under Microscope of a Strong and Subtle Intellect

Essays by Remy de Gourmont Constitute a Masterpiece of Creative Criticism

DECADENCE AND OTHER ESSAYS ON THE CULTURE OF IDEAS. By Remy de Gourmont. Translated by William Aspinwall Bradley. Published by Harcourt, Brace & Co.

IN THE work of Remy de Gourmont the art of criticism, which is usually at best a talent, reaches the height of genius. De Gourmont should be numbered with the great intellectual septs and lovers of life, with the men of the Renaissance and their modern spiritual heirs, Goethe, Stendhal and Nietzsche. His translator does not exaggerate in describing him as "perhaps the most potent corrosive intellectual agent of our time, after Nietzsche."

De Gourmont's restless, searching mind prompts him to invade almost every field of intellectual life. He shares with Nietzsche the capacity to develop a vast store of literary and historical erudition in strikingly original conceptions. He is an implacable enemy of dogma in any form. He has no respect for the absolute values which are dear to philosophers, moralists, even to scientists.

"It is very evident," he writes, "that absolute beauty exists no more than truth, justice, love. The beauty of the poets, the truth of the philosophers, the justice of the sociologists, the love of the theologians, are all so many abstractions which enter the realm of our senses—and very clumsily—only when blocked out by the sculptor's chisel."

It is a common illusion that skepticism is invariably depressing and demoralizing. To a man of strong and subtle intelligence there is a sense of conscious power and exhilaration in subjecting everything to the test of his critical faculties, in examining and questioning the "truths" which have long held sway through the apathetic acceptance of the majority. Such a man is Remy de Gourmont. His appreciation of the infinite richness and complexity of life is enhanced because he reserves for himself the fullest intellectual liberty of action, because he refuses to let himself be branded with the mark of any literary or philosophical school of thought.

De Gourmont never allows himself to be infected with the peculiarly bitter dogmatism of the fanatical crusader against established dogmas. At heart even more profoundly skeptical than Nietzsche he is saved from the overstrain and collapse of Nietzsche's last years by his Latin sanity and humor.

The hackneyed phrase, creative criticism, could never be better applied than to the work of Remy de Gourmont. What he gives us is a mere judging of books and theories, but a commentary on life itself, shot through with the vision of intuitive genius. It is one of the great free spirits of world literature.

Abraham Lincoln

The First American—The Last of the Kings

It took an Englishman to say it. In *THE PATH OF THE KING* John Buchan deals not solely with crowned monarchs, but with real kingly leaders including Cromwell, Jeanne d'Arc and Abraham Lincoln. In this book teeming with genuine romance and thrill there is the study of the transmutation of genius and nobility from the days of the Norse kings culminating in Abraham Lincoln—the last of the kings—the founder of kingdoms of democracy.

"Mr. Buchan's book is undoubtedly the best in a creditably long line of romances."—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat*.

THE PATH OF THE KING

By JOHN BUCHAN

Author of "Greenmantle," "The Life of Alexander Hamilton," etc.

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LARAMIE

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Author of Nan of Music Mountain

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Charles Scribner's Sons, Fifth Avenue, New York

HERMAN MELVILLE'S Famous South Sea Stories

Moby Dick, Omee and Typee

H. M. Tomlinson, Christopher Morley, William McFee have all been telling of their delight in these splendid yarns, which have been for some time unavailable in your favorite Everyman's Library binding. They can now be had in the new edition of

EVERYMAN'S LIBRARY Each, \$1.00. At any bookstore or E. P. Dutton & Co., 681 5th Av., N. Y.

Southern Politics

SHOW DOWN. By Julia Houston Bailey. Published by G. B. Putnam's Sons. \$1.75.

SOMETIMES out of unexpected corners of the country comes a novel which proves to be striking through its unusual plot or because it conveys a lesson hitherto neglected. As a rule, fiction produced in the cotton states has been devoted to quiet sketches of life in that region, without any aim to force home a lesson. So we find it a real pleasure to be able to recommend *Show Down*, by Julia Houston Bailey, a novel which handles plainly certain unfortunate state conditions. Nancy Carroll returns to her home in a small Southern city after graduating at an Eastern college, and proceeds to stir things up. She is attractive and brilliant and her earnestness and vim compel the attention and

School Teacher Ends State Evil

THE NURSERY SCHOOL. By Margaret McMillan. Published by E. P. Dutton & Co. \$2.50.

THIS is an extremely interesting, helpful and practical outline of the best methods to follow caring for young children, based upon the author's experiences in the slums of London. Miss McMillan tells how to feed, teach and amuse children, and describes the training courses which should be taken by the prospective nurse and teacher. The author's extensive experience in social welfare work gives her work a distinct note of authoritativeness.

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